

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS-APPOINTED SPECIAL DISTRICT POSITIONS

Name of Special District as listed on announcement: *Resource Conservation District*

Filing Period (as listed on the announcement):

Type of Member: Incumbent? *No*

Name: *Fites-Kaufman, Jo Ann*

Resident Address: [REDACTED]

(Must be a resident of Nevada County) Zip Code [REDACTED]

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Supervisorial District in which you reside: *4*

Email address [REDACTED]

Phone Number: *HOME: [REDACTED] WORK: *NA (semi-retired)*

Time(s) available to attend meetings (days, evenings, etc.) *Anytime*

EXPERIENCE: A resume may be attached containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application.

Education/Employment Experience: *Forest Resources Degrees (M.S. and PhD.).*

Over 24 years' experience with US Forest Service on forest management/planning and wildfire management for multiple resources (fire safety, forest resilience, watershed, forest products, recreation, habitat). Specialized in wildfire behavior and fuels mitigation for latter part of career. Maintain current, federal wildfire fireline qualifications (red card).

Community Experience and Affiliations: *I have been on the Nevada County Resource Conservation District Board for several months now. During that time, I have been actively involved. I have served on the Personnel Committee for the new District Manager Position. I have put in considerable time to help expand the district's involvement in forest health and vegetation management for community fire safety in the community. I have met with county OES, the Fire Safe Council, and other involved community organizations, and have attended joint community meetings to listen and provide input. I have applied for several grants to add organizational capacity of the RCD to provide technical advice and education to residents needing help in progress toward the RCD mission on good land stewardship through vegetation management on their properties. I have used my various community volunteer efforts to take the opportunity to ask residents what they need help with in vegetation management for their property to promote sound stewardship. I have begun meeting with the Sierra College Forestry Program staff working on the new Forestry Program to provide input on community needs. I wrote an article on the history of prescribed fire on ranches in Nevada County, interviewing several long-time ranchers about their past*

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burning and current barriers. I am working on networking with various organizations on how to help ranchers conduct prescribed burns again, if they want, for range improvement and fire safety. I have enjoyed spending time on the board and working to support helping private landowners in the community in promoting and practicing good land stewardship.

Volunteer for North San Juan Fire Protection District (NSJFPD), Fire Safe Council, Firewise Communities in Nevada County. Leader of Salmon Mine-East Sages Firewise Community. Steering Committee Chair, member and volunteer for the Yuba-Bear Prescribed Burn Cooperative. I have helped lead the development of by-laws for the YBBC and an associated membership agreement, in cooperation with state and local fire officials, to ensure that we are working together to promote safe, legal, and responsible prescribed fire by private landowners. Volunteer for the Yuba Watershed Institute on wildfire fuels mitigation and community safety projects. Experience working on Mountain Bounty and You Bet local farms.

Other County Boards/Commissions/Committees on which you have served: North San Juan Fire Protection District and California Fire Safe Council Board of Directors.

Other experience you feel would be helpful to the Board of Supervisors in making this appointment: I grew up in the rural community of Quincy and understand the importance of local ranches, forests and communities. I have lived in Nevada County for over 23 years and together with my husband and son, actively manage our 75 acres of forest on the San Juan Ridge. I have extensive experience across many different forests, shrublands and rangelands in measuring the effectiveness of different management treatments on resilience and effectiveness on changing wildfire behavior. I stay current and provide advice to varied agencies and organizations on forest and vegetation resilience to wildfire, drought and insects. Hundreds of invited presentations to varied community and organizations over the years on varied forest management and wildfire related issues. Recently, emphasis of presentations on wildland urban interface and community wildfire safety.

REFERENCES: Please list two references with telephone numbers:

Tom Browning, [REDACTED]

Pat Leach, [REDACTED]

Applicants may be required by State Law and County Ordinance to file a financial disclosure statement as part of the appointment process. The form can be viewed at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov> or the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office. An Oath of Office will be required upon appointment.

I have reviewed the Financial Disclosure Statement requirement: yes

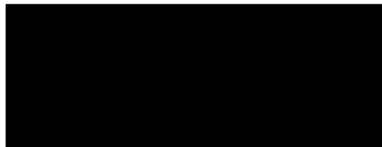
Initial Date: 10/7/2022

Signature: 

Applications must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Nevada, 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 200,

PO Box 599002, Nevada City, CA 95959-7902. This application is a public document.

Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman



OBJECTIVE Apply my extensive fire and educator experience, and deep interest in human nature, perceptions, thinking, and learning processes to help people and communities understand how to live with fire in California's fire prone environment. In so doing, promote fire prevention and WUI responsibility by all.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Forest Resources, University of Washington, June 1997.

M.S. Forest Resources, University of Georgia, June 1986.

B.S. Biology, Humboldt State University, June 1983.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

10/2012 to 12/2016: Regional Planning Ecologist (GS-401-12), Pacific SW Region, US Forest Service

Ecologist on core, regional planning team with social scientist, economist, writer/editor and wildlife biologist. Coordinate with other RO and forest staff in all resource areas, including fire. Plan and participate in public dialogue and workshops.

2014: Fire Management Specialist (Detail GS-401-13), Interagency Wildland Fire Management Research Development and Applications;

Co-led special project for USFS WO Fire Director to evaluate and recommend improvements of fire incident and strategic objectives. Conducted Fire Behavior Case Study for extreme fire behavior on 2014 King Fire. Collaboration with Dr. Janice Coen (National Center for Atmospheric Research) to apply fire-atmospheric interaction model and NASA scientists on application of new remote sensing data.

2008 to 2011: Teacher (Jr. & Sr. High), Downieville High School

1998 to 2008: Team Leader/Senior Fire Scientist, Adaptive Management Services Enterprise Team (GS-408-13), USFS, Washington Office, detached unit

Team leader. Developed, organized and managed successful Enterprise Business (Team) specializing in fire management and science, with 20 to 30 employees, and contractors. Planned and managed multimillion dollar budget. Worked with different levels of organization from firefighters to District, Forest, Regional and National office staff. Chair of national Enterprise Unit Team Leaders Partnership (two years), serving on Executive Steering Committee. On committee to develop measurable performance metrics.

- Developed and lead Fire Behavior Assessment Team on over twenty wildland fires across the U.S
- Evaluated fuel treatment effectiveness during wildfires and WUI for R5 and WO Fire
- Instructor at National Fire Apprentice Academy at Advanced Fuels Module
- Lead Vegetation and Fuel Management reviews across California National Forests.
- Coordinated Lake Tahoe fuel/vegetation program effectiveness review. Included State (California and Nevada), legislative and senator staffers, local and federal agencies and community members.

- Developed canyon fire acceleration model application for firefighter and community safety. Modeled fire behavior into WUI for Esperanza firefighter fatality investigation.
- Lead project to summarize science on fire behavior modeling in WUI.
- Lead and completed case studies of collaborative community fuel reduction projects in WUI.
- Designed and lead fuel treatment effectiveness and fire effects monitoring and evaluation across CA national forests.
- Developed fire management and fuels/fire ecology/fire behavior analysis or NEPA for Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Tahoe Basin, San Bernardino National Forest and Colfax Fire Safe Council (WUI and wildlands).
- Designed, conducted and reported on workshop for Lesson's Learned Center on human factors and fire behavior in near miss and fire fatality case studies. Based on work, developed presentation based on workshop for district, forest, and regional fire management meetings.
- Extensive public speaking and writing experience. Presentations at CA USFS Fire and Aviation Board of Directors and California Fuels Council several times annually. Presentations on fire monitoring, research and applied management tools at varied (>10) state, national and international fire symposiums.
- Supervised Incident Commanders, Fire Behavior Analysts, Fuels Specialists, and Fire Ecologists.
- Member of Interdisciplinary Team for EIS for Forest Plan Amendment for the Sierra Nevada. Lead development of alternatives, working with varied stakeholder groups to develop individual alternatives reflecting their views. Developed Sierra-Nevada wide fire hazard and risk index map.

1995 to 1998: **Zone Ecologist** (GS-408-12), USFS. **Region 5 Ecology Program**, Quincy, CA:

1992 to 1995: **Zone Ecologist** (GS-430-12), USFS. **Region 5 Ecology Program**, Placerville, CA

9/1993-6/1994: **Research Assistant**, Forest Resources, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

- Conducted research on historic fire and vegetation on the Eldorado National Forest.
- Participant in interdisciplinary science team for Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Study and Report for Congress. Co-authored chapter on Old Forest conditions and managements on all lands throughout the Sierra Nevada Bioregion, with a target audience of the general public and congress.

1991: **Zone Ecologist** (GS-430-11), USFS. **Region 5 Ecology Program**, Placerville, CA

5/1990-1991: **Assistant Zone Ecologist** (GS-430-9), USFS. **Region 5 Ecology Program**, Redding, CA.

12/1989 to 4/1990: **Assistant Zone Ecologist** (GS-430-9), USFS. **Region 5 Ecology Program**, Eureka, CA

6/1984-6/1986: **Research Assistant**, Forest Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

CERTIFICATES AND CREDENTIALS

Red Card: Technical Specialist-Fire Behavior (arduous 2013-present), Fire Effects Monitor (2019-present), Firefighter II (lapsed)

Defensible Space Inspector: Fire Safe Council of Nevada County